

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Claims 3-4, 7-10, 12 and 14-22 were pending prior to the final Office Action. In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4, 12 and 18-22 as allegedly anticipated by or being unpatentable over cited references Torres et al. (U.S. Patent 6,738,075), Morita et al. (U.S. Patent 6,584,463) and Nagasaka et al. (U.S. Patent 6,023,520) and indicated claims 3, 7-10 and 14-17 as being allowed. In this reply, all rejected claims are canceled. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that all rejections be withdrawn and the application be allowed.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at telephone number (703) 205-8000, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant respectfully petitions for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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HNS

Respectfully submitted,

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